

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 00883 131342Z
ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 COME-00 /028 W
-----121740 140437Z /64

R 131115Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 867

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV GB
SUBJECT: TAW

REF: (A) STATE 16769 (B) STATE 83669

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN SOME INFORMATION FROM LIBREVILLE
OFFICE OF TAW WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE USEFUL TO OPIC. OFFICE, CON-
SISTING OF FOUR ROOMS, IS LOCATED IN COMBINATION OFFICE/APARTMENT
BUILDING FEW

BLOCKS FROM EMBASSY. TAW HAS THREE EMPLOYEES: DIRECTOR, SECRETARY,
AND TELEX OPERATOR. ADDRESS IS B.P. 2100, LIBREVILLE; TELEPHONE
72-12-39; TELEX 5296 GO.

2. LOCAL DIRECTOR OF TAW OFFICE IS FABIEN OLLAME, GABONESE CITIZEN.
HE STATED THAT TAW WAS ACTIVE IN GABON PRIMARILY IN LEASING UP UNTIL
1974 AND MENTIONED THE FOLLOWING OTHER BUSINESS VENTURES; AUTOMOBILE
LOANS; FINANCING MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR CLINIQUE CHAMBRIER; GENERAL
FINANCE (SOCIETE GABONAISE D'IMPRIMERIE OR SOGIM AND BOUCHERIE DE
NOMBAKELE); AND TRUCKS. OLLAME GAVE BIPG (BANQUE INTERNATIONALE POUR
LE GABON) AS BANKING REFERENCE AND STATED THAT TOTAL CAPITALIZATION OF

TAW WORLDWIDE WAS US DOLS 2.23 MILLION. LOCAL BRANCH HAS OUTSTANDING
LOANS OF 350 MILLION CFA OR APPROXIMATELY US DOLS 1.5 MILLION.

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3. OLLAME FURTHER STATED THAT TAW HAS HAD ALMOST NO REPEAT NO
BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN GABON SINCE 1974 BUT THAT LATER THIS YEAR
COMPANY WILL BE REORGANIZED AND INCORPORATED IN GABON AS TAW GABON
WITH INITIAL CAPITALIZATION OF 50 MILLION CFA OR APPROXIMATELY
US DOLS 210,000. CAPITAL WILL BE APPORTIONED AS FOLLOWS: 65 PER
CENT HELD BY TAW INTERNATIONAL LEASING; 10 PERCENT BY GOVERNMENT
OF GABON; AND 25 PERCENT BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

4. OLLAME WAS VERY FORTHCOMING IN PROVIDING FOREGOING INFORMATION WHICH EMBASSY SOLICITED AS GENERAL BUSINESS AND TRADE INQUIRY. ONE FACTOR OF WHICH DEPARTMENT AND OPIC SHOULD BE AWARE YET WHICH MAY BE PURELY COINCIDENTAL IS TAW FINANCING PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR CLINIQUE CHAMBRIER, MENTIONED PARA TWO. CLINIC IS OWNED BY DR. MARCEL ELOI RAHANDI CHAMBRIER, ONCE PRACTICING PHYSICIAN IN LIBREVILLE, WHO HAS ABANDONED MEDICINE FOR POLITICS. HE WAS FORMERLY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MINES AND LATER MINISTER OF TOURISM. IN 1977 GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE HE WAS NAMED TO HIGH POST IN PARTI DEMOCRATIQUE GABONAIS (PDG). CHAMBRIER CONNECTION WITH TAW MAY ONLY BE COINCIDENCE YET POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION IN PROPOSED TAW GABON CANNOT BE RULED OUT. YATES

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